



June 2, 2015

Ghassan Korban, P.E.  
Commissioner of Public Works  
City of Milwaukee  
841 N. Broadway, Room 501  
Milwaukee WI 53202

Dear Commissioner Korban:

I am writing in support of the City of Milwaukee's application for a U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant. The grant would be matched with authorized local funding to allow Milwaukee to add a Lakefront Streetcar Line extension and vehicle to our downtown streetcar system.

The lakefront is Milwaukee's front door, home to myriad museums, festivals, and parks. The area is the site of existing office complexes and exciting new developments. These include the current construction of Wisconsin's largest office building, of Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance's international headquarters, and the Milwaukee Gateway Project. Unfortunately, the area lacks parking, accessibility, and connectivity to other major downtown locations. Residents, employees, and visitors often find it challenging to reach their destinations without use of a personal vehicle. The Lakefront Streetcar Line would provide connectivity and stimulate additional development by adding a reliable, safe mode of public transportation.

Providing easy access between our downtown retail stores, hotels, and other attractions will allow visitors to navigate the city with ease making it more attractive to tourism. The proposed route gives those who are unable to drive increased access to employment and education opportunities and can lessen the commute time for others while promoting use of environmentally friendly transportation as the proposed route covers all 20 of Milwaukee's largest employers, extends to Marquette University, UW-Milwaukee, and Milwaukee Area Technical College while covering 77% of Milwaukee's housing. The project would also serve the city in workforce development by targeting workers from underrepresented populations for employment opportunities, incorporate significant disadvantaged business participation, and provide many construction jobs our residents.

In closing, I enthusiastically support Milwaukee's TIGER grant application for the Lakefront Line. The streetcar is a catalyst to invigorate transit use in the city and a catalyst to increased economic activity, job creation, and growth and will provide a great benefit to the City.

Sincerely,